

# Grand Island VA Program

## Grand Island Program Director (PGY1, PGY2)

### **Lisa Bilsend, Pharm.D, BCACP (PACT Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Academic Detailing)**

Dr. Bilsend is a 2009 graduate of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Pharmacy. She completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency focused in ambulatory care at the Grand Island VA in 2009-2010. Following residency, Lisa began working at the Lincoln VA where she helped to pilot the Tele-pharmacy program, providing medication therapy management for four satellite clinics across the Nebraska-Western Iowa division. She also served as primary preceptor for clerkship students from UNMC, as well as preceptor for the TelePharmacy and Drug Information residency rotations. She attained Board Certification in Ambulatory Care in 2012



In 2013, Dr. Bilsend returned to the Grand Island VA as Residency Program Director. She works primarily in the PACT/ambulatory care clinics, is involved in Academic Detailing, as well as precepting APPE students from UNMC and Creighton University. Together with the other Ambulatory Care preceptors, she was awarded "Preceptor Site of the Year" by the UNMC P4 class in 2015, and again in 2019. Lisa also serves as the Residency Program Director for the PGY1 residency program. She and her husband, Matt, have two kids, Rowan (4), Reese (18 months) and new baby to be born in November 2021. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, going on walks with Ollie (the family dog), working on DIY projects and spending time with family.

## Grand Island VA Preceptors

### **Opal Bacon, PharmD, BCPP, BCPS (Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialist)**

Opal graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 2014. She worked for CVS pharmacy in intern and technician roles from 2009 to 2014 and for Barnes Jewish Hospital West County from 2011-2014 in a technician role. After graduation Opal completed a PGY1 in pharmacy practice and PGY2 in psychiatry at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She then started a position at Wayne State University in 2016 as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice (Clinical). She was in that position until she began working for the Grand Island VA as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in outpatient psychiatry in 2020.

### **Jamie Baldwin, Pharm.D (Staff Pharmacist)**

Jamie graduated from Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in 2009. She had been working for Walgreens pharmacy in Grand Island since 2001 in technician and intern roles. After graduation, she took a staff pharmacist position which transitioned into pharmacy manager. She started at the VA in 2013 in the outpatient pharmacy. She is pharmacist for the Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) team and continues to work for Walgreens as well.

### **Kristen Bishop, Pharm.D (Mental Health Clinical Pharmacy Specialist)**

Kristen graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2001 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She then worked at Walgreens in Omaha and Hastings, Nebraska; she later managed two Walgreens pharmacies in Grand Island. She joined Grand Island VAMC in August of 2013. Kristen participated in the expansion of pharmacy services into the mental health area and currently works with the Mental Health Care Team and Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom.

### **Brent Bollwitt, PharmD (Anticoagulation)**

Dr. Bollwitt is a 2009 graduate of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy. He completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at the Creighton University Medical Center in 2010-2011. Shortly following completion of his residency experience, he began working at the Grand Island VA as a clinical pharmacy specialist. He is the designated pharmacy anticoagulation champion at the Grand Island VA and is involved in following the care of all veterans prescribed an anticoagulant at the Grand Island site.

Along with his anticoagulation duties, he is also involved in the PACT/ambulatory care clinics. Brent is also the main preceptor for the APPE students that rotate through the Grand Island VA. Together with the other Ambulatory Care preceptors, he was awarded "Preceptor Site of the Year" by the UNMC P4 class in 2015, and again in 2019. He and his wife Krystal live in Grand Island and have three children (Oakly, Rhett, and Baylor). In his spare time, he enjoys spending time outdoors hunting/fishing and spending time with family.

**Paula Carlson, PharmD (PACT Clinical Pharmacist, Pain Champion)**

Dr. Carlson graduated from Hastings College in 2001 and from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy in 2004. She then completed a Community Pharmacy Residency at Nishna Valley Pharmacy/UNMC in Shenandoah, Iowa. Following her residency she continued to work at Nishna Valley Pharmacy, Hy-Vee Pharmacy, and Shenandoah Medical Center. She joined the Grand Island VA as a PACT pharmacist in August of 2010 and also works with the primary care pain team at the VA. Together with the other Ambulatory Care preceptors, she was awarded "Preceptor Site of the Year" by the UNMC P4 class in 2015, and again in 2019. She and her husband Ryan have two daughters, Leah and Sarah.

**Jeremy McIntyre, PharmD (Pharmacy Manager)**

Dr. McIntyre graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in 2004 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. After school he continued to work for Walgreens for four years. Jeremy joined the Grand Island VA in 2008 as a clinical pharmacist in the Ambulatory Care clinics. He served as a preceptor for residents and students and was awarded "Preceptor of the Year" by UNMC in 2009 with his fellow preceptors. After three years of providing medication therapy management, Jeremy accepted the pharmacy supervisor position for the Grand Island VA in 2011. He helped incorporate Grand Island's long standing clinical pharmacy practice into the Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) in Primary Care. Jeremy and his wife, Karen, have four children and love attending all of their activities. They raise and train horses to compete in rodeos.

**Janelle Sellers, PharmD (PACT Clinical Pharmacist) – North Platte VA**

Dr. Sellers is a 2005 graduate from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). She completed both a PGY-1 and PGY-2 residency with the VA Nebraska/Western Iowa Healthcare System-Grand Island division medical center in 2006 and 2007. Janelle served as the Residency Director at the Grand Island VA from 2008-2013 and was also a volunteer residency surveyor for American Society Health System Pharmacists (ASHP) from 2011 to 2013. In 2013 she relocated to the VA clinic in North Platte, NE. She also holds an Adjunct Assistant Professorship with UNMC College of pharmacy and continues to precept students at her current practice site. She was awarded "Preceptor of the Year" Award from UNMC in 2009, and "Distinguished Young Pharmacist" Award by the Nebraska Pharmacists Association in 2012. Her practice areas include diabetes, anticoagulation, tobacco cessation, chronic pain management and several other chronic diseases.

**Amy Thompson, PharmD, BCGP (CLC Clinical Pharmacist)**

Dr. Thompson is a 2005 graduate of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Pharmacy. She completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency the Grand Island VA in 2005-2006. Following residency, Amy joined the UNMC/VA team as a 50:50 faculty member. She became the full-time clinical pharmacist for the Community Living Center (CLC) in 2008 where she remains practicing today. She is board certified in geriatric pharmacy and the primary preceptor for all CLC rotations. She serves as guest lecturer in pharmacotherapy at UNMC and precepts APPE students from UNMC and Creighton University. In her free time, Amy enjoys the sunshine and spending time with family.

# Omaha VA Program

## Omaha Program Director (PGY1)

### **Michaela Hrdy, PharmD (Residency Program Director – Cardiology Specialist)**

Dr. Hrdy graduated from Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in 2006. She completed a pharmacy practice residency at Bergan Mercy Medical Center in Omaha, NE. Following residency, she accepted an inpatient clinical pharmacist position with Bergan Mercy Medical Center. In 2008, she transitioned to the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in Omaha, NE to serve as an acute care clinical pharmacist and residency program director. Currently, Dr. Hrdy is the cardiology clinical pharmacy specialist and residency program director for the Omaha VA



## Omaha VA Preceptors

### **Tracie Balvanz, PharmD (Chief of Pharmacy Service - NWI)**

Dr. Balvanz is a 2004 graduate of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Pharmacy. She completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson Arizona. She went on to complete a PGY2 in Pharmacoeconomics and managed care at the Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21) in Reno Nevada. Following residency, she began working at the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System in Reno Nevada as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in a variety of practice areas including mental health, inpatient, CLC. She developed the Pharmacoeconomics program in 2009 before assuming the role of Associate Chief of Pharmacy for Inpatient in 2011 and then Deputy Chief of Pharmacy in 2017. Recently, she returned to Nebraska and joined the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System as the Chief of Pharmacy. She and her husband Bryan have 3 children and enjoy traveling.

### **Andrew Beckmann, PharmD, BCPS (Ambulatory Care)**

Andrew graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) in 2008 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Following graduation he completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 residency focused in ambulatory care at the St. Cloud VA in St. Cloud, MN. Following residency, he worked for one year in retail pharmacy before returning to the St. Cloud VA as an outpatient staff pharmacist. Over the next 2 years he transitioned to a 50/50 outpatient/clinical role then full-time clinical pharmacist role in primary care and anticoagulation clinics. At the beginning of 2015 he began working as the clinical pharmacist with the Cardiology team. In August 2015 he transferred from St. Cloud to the Omaha VA. Since then he has worked as clinical pharmacist in primary care.

### **Megan Casares, PharmD (Outpatient Staff Pharmacist)**

Dr. Casares earned her PharmD from UNMC in 2008. She completed an ambulatory care focused residency at the Grand Island VA Medical Center. Following her residency she briefly worked as an inpatient clinical pharmacist at the Topeka VA before she joined the VA NWIHCs team in Omaha as a staff inpatient pharmacist in 2010. Since then she has continued with the VA NWIHCs system at either the Lincoln or Omaha campus. She has worked as a clinical pharmacist in the ambulatory care clinic and outpatient staff pharmacist. Dr. Casares currently serves as preceptor of the outpatient pharmacy rotation.

### **Jenifer Coniglio, PharmD BCPS (Associate Chief of Pharmacy)**

Dr. Coniglio earned her PharmD from UNMC in 1997. She worked as an Ambulatory Clinical Pharmacist in an Alegent Medical Clinic and then as a staff pharmacist at Target. She also worked as an inpatient pharmacist at Immanuel Medical Center. In March 2006, she joined the VA NWIHCs in Omaha as a Staff Pharmacist. In 2008, she became the Outpatient Pharmacy Supervisor until she was promoted to Associate Chief of Pharmacy in 2019. Dr. Coniglio received her board certification in 2009

and serves as a preceptor in Management and Operations for Creighton pharmacy students and VA PGY-1 residents. She currently oversees Budget and Operations for NWI Pharmacy.

**Jim Easton, PharmD (Oncology Specialist)**

Dr. Easton earned his PharmD from Creighton School of Pharmacy in 1996. He worked as an inpatient clinical pharmacist at the VA NWIHCS, transitioned to Hem/Onc Specialist in 2009. Dr. Easton precepts Creighton School of Pharmacy students and VA PGY-1 residents.

**Michael Ehle, PharmD, BCPS (Acute Care)**

Mike graduated from Northeastern University in Boston, MA in 2007 and went on to complete a PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency at Boston Medical Center. After residency, he worked at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston as a clinical pharmacist on one of their inpatient Cardiology teams. He moved to Nebraska after meeting his now wife, a Nebraska native, during her residency in Boston. Mike then began working at the University of Nebraska Medical Center on the Neurosurgery and Internal Medicine services before coming to the Omaha VA in 2014. Throughout his time at the VA, he has served as a preceptor for the Internal Medicine rotation and is a member of the RAC and P&T Committee.

**Pamela A. Foral, PharmD, BCPS, FCCP (Infectious Disease)**

Dr. Foral is a Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professionals and Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Foral graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy with a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree and completed a Pharmacy Practice Residency at The University of Arizona. She is certified as a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist. Dr. Foral's clinical site is at the Nebraska-Western Iowa VA Hospital in Omaha. She is an Infectious Diseases Clinical Pharmacy Specialist and is the Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program. Her current areas of research interest include antimicrobial stewardship and outcomes. She is a member of numerous professional organizations, has published in peer-reviewed journals and has given numerous local and national presentations.

**Justin Frazer, PharmD (Clinical Coordinator)**

Dr. Frazer is a 2003 graduate of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy. He completed an ASHP-accredited Primary Care Specialty residency at the William S. Middleton VA in Madison, Wisconsin in 2004. Justin then started working at the VA Eastern Kansas Health Care system as an ambulatory clinical pharmacy specialist. After developing a new practice, he helped it rapidly expand by adding an Anticoagulation Clinic, the Chronic Disease State Management service, Mental Health and specialty clinic support, as well as an Acute Care Clinical Pharmacy service. In 2009, Justin became the Clinical Coordinator and started the PGY1 Pharmacy Residency program in Topeka. When the opportunity to come back home to Nebraska arose in 2013, Justin and his family moved to Omaha. Dr. Frazer currently serves as the Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator for VA Nebraska-Western Iowa, overseeing the clinical and educational programs across the system. He regularly works with residents on research and management projects, as well as serving on the Residency Advisory Committee for all of the PGY1 and PGY2 programs. Justin and his wife Bridget have four children, and enjoy coaching (and cheering) them in basketball, baseball, track and soccer.

**Allyson Friel, PharmD (Acute Care)**

Allyson graduated in 2016 with a Doctorate of Pharmacy from Creighton University. Following graduation, she completed a PGY-1 residency here at the Omaha VA during which she discovered her interest in Acute Care pharmacy. Upon completion of her residency, Allyson transferred to the Indian Health Service in Winnebago, NE where she worked as a Clinical Pharmacist in the ER, retail pharmacy, hospital, and ambulatory care areas. In 2018, Allyson then transferred back to the Omaha VA when an Acute Care pharmacist position opened. To help give back to the residency from which she received her certificate, Allyson has taken on a preceptor role for the PGY-1 Acute Care I rotation. In her spare time, Allyson enjoys watching Netflix and playing with her English bulldog.

**Teri Gabel, PharmD, BCPP (Mental Health)**

Dr. Gabel has been the Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Mental Health at the VA Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System for over 20 years serving the inpatient and outpatient psychiatric areas and the substance use disorders programs. Dr. Gabel is a Volunteer Faculty member for the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Gabel received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the UNMC College of Pharmacy, completed a residency in Psychiatric Pharmacy Practice at the Medical University of South Carolina, and is board certified in Psychiatric Pharmacy. She was an Assistant Professor at the UNMC College of Pharmacy for over ten years where her area of expertise was psychiatric therapeutics. Dr. Gabel has advanced training in herbal medicine holding a Master Herbalist Diploma from the Australasian College of Health Sciences. Dr. Gabel provides educational programming in and has authored and co-authored articles and chapters on mental health and natural medicines.

**Ashleigh Grammar, PharmD (Acute Care)**

Ashleigh Grammar is a St. Louis native and first moved to Nebraska to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she swam and earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She then moved to Omaha to attend the University of Nebraska Medical Center for pharmacy school. In 2019, she graduated with her Doctorate of Pharmacy and went on to complete a PGY-1 residency at the Omaha VA. Upon completion of her residency, Ashleigh was hired on as an inpatient clinical pharmacist. In her free time, she enjoys watching Nebraska and Alabama football, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

**Kathryn (Kate) Hentzen, PharmD, BCACP (Geriatrics and HBPC)**

Kate graduated in 2010 from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Following graduation, she completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 residency focused in ambulatory care at the William S Middleton VA in Madison, WI and stayed to complete a PGY-2 Ambulatory Care residency with a focus in geriatrics and academia. Following residency, she started as a clinical assistant professor at UNMC with a practice site at the Omaha VA in primary care (PACT) and anticoagulation. She transitioned to the Omaha VA full time in 2013 as a PACT pharmacist in primary care and anticoagulation. She currently serves as the clinical pharmacist for the Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) teams for Omaha and North Platte as well as the pharmacist for the Geriatrics evaluation clinic.

**Amanda Herdzina, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP (Mental Health)**

Dr. Herdzina graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center – College of Pharmacy in 2009 followed by a PGY1 residency at Bergan Mercy Medical Center/Creighton University in 2010 with a focus in psychiatric pharmacy. Since completion of her residency, she has served as an Inpatient Pharmacist at the Omaha VA. Dr. Herdzina was the co-preceptor for Creighton and UNMC fourth year rotation students from 2010-2012, the preceptor and coordinator of the Valor student program from 2013-2017 and she has been precepting pharmacy residents and students on the inpatient psychiatric unit since 2014.

**Amber Josoff, PharmD, BCPS (Omaha Outpatient Clinical Supervisor)**

Dr. Josoff is a 2002 graduate of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) College of Pharmacy. She worked as an inpatient pharmacist at The Nebraska Medical Center prior to coming to the VA in 2008. She is currently the supervisor for the Omaha Clinical pharmacists in Ambulatory Care/PACT clinics and Anticoagulation clinic. She maintains clinical duties with a focus in Women's Health. Dr. Josoff is Board Certified in Pharmacotherapy. At the VA, she serves on multiple committees including Clinical Pharmacy Practice Council, Formulary Action Team, Women's Health Group, and Anticoagulation work groups. Amber and her husband have 3 children. In her free time, she enjoys golfing and traveling.

**Joan Merkel, PharmD, BCPS (Acute Care)**

Dr. Merkel is a 2001 graduate of South Dakota State University School of Pharmacy. Joan started working at the Minneapolis VA in 2001. In 2003, she was promoted to clinical pharmacist on the post-surgical ward and specialized in pain management. She later became board certified as pharmaceutical specialist in 2005. Then, in 2008, she moved to Omaha VA to become their ICU pharmacist. She has enjoyed her career in the VA system, working the veterans, and educating the students and residents along the way.

**Josh Sakala, PharmD, BCACP (Anticoagulation Management)**

Dr. Sakala graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2008. He has been a pharmacist in many roles at the Omaha VA since 2008, including an outpatient staff pharmacist, a clinical pharmacy specialist in PACT and the Anticoagulation Program Manager from 2014-2019. He has precepted pharmacy residents and pharmacy students since 2009, and has been the primary preceptor for the Anticoagulation Management Rotation at the Omaha VA since 2014. He is board certified in ambulatory care and has served on various committees within the VA, including the Residency Advisory Council. He and his wife Katie recently became the proud parents of a beautiful baby girl.

**Jenna Stang, PharmD BCPS (Acute Care- Surgery)**

Dr. Stang earned her PharmD from Creighton University in 2012. She completed a PGY-1 residency at the Kansas City VA Medical Center (KCVA) in 2013. After residency, Jenna stayed on at the KCVA as an Internal Medicine Pharmacist until 2016. At that time she decided to take a break from the VA health system to work at North Kansas City Hospital, a large community hospital, as the Medication Reconciliation Coordinator and Surgery Pharmacist. In 2018, she happily returned back home to Omaha to work at the Omaha VA as an Inpatient Pharmacist and then later transitioning to the Surgery Pharmacist position. Jenna and her husband have 2 daughters, Elliott and Ramona.

**Sarah Sutton, PharmD, BCACP, CLS (Ambulatory Care)**

Dr. Sutton graduated from Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in 2008. She completed a PGY1 Ambulatory Care residency at the Phoenix VA and a PGY2 Ambulatory Care residency at Kaiser Permanente in Denver, CO. She practiced as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist for 9 years at Kaiser Permanente in the Clinical Pharmacy Cardiac Risk Service. While



at KP, she delivered long-term medication management for 1,200+ patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, including initiating, modifying and monitoring evidence-based medications under the guidance of a collaborative drug therapy management protocol. She also served as a PGY2 ambulatory care residency preceptor as well as a Clinical Instructor for the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. In 2019, she joined the Omaha VA as a PACT Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, where she currently practices.

**Heather Wehner, PharmD, BCACP (Ambulatory Care)**

Dr. Wehner graduated in 2012 from Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions with a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree. She completed an ASHP accredited PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice residency focused in ambulatory care and PGY-2 Ambulatory Care residency focused in geriatrics and primary care at the William S. Middleton VA in Madison, WI from 2012-2014. Following residency, she moved back to Nebraska and began working at the Lincoln VA hospital as a PACT (patient aligned care team) pharmacist in primary care and anticoagulation. She later moved to the Omaha VA in 2015 as PACT pharmacist working in primary care, geriatrics, and anticoagulation. She now works primarily in the PACT clinic and serves as a primary preceptor for both residents and students on rotation. Heather has served as a mentor for longitudinal research projects and is a member of the Residency Advisory Committee for the Omaha PGY-1 program. Heather and her husband Mark are both Omaha, NE natives and have one daughter, Averie.

**Christina Wilkinson (Pain/Whole Health)**

Dr. Wilkinson graduated from the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy in 2018 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency at the VA Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System (VA NWIHCS) in Lincoln, NE from 2018 to 2019. She then went on to complete a PGY2 residency in Ambulatory Care at the VA NWIHCS in Grand Island and Omaha from 2019 to 2020. Following residency, Christina stayed on as the Pain and Whole Health pharmacist in Omaha, NE. Her duties include helping to develop safe and effective medication and non-medication chronic pain treatment plans for patients, answering questions and e-consults from providers regarding chronic pain and opioid medications, and working with the NWIHCS as well as the VISN to ensure opioid medication safety precautions are completed. She additionally serves as the primary preceptor for the Pain and Whole Health PGY1 and PGY2 rotations. Outside of work, she enjoys traveling, hiking, fishing, and spending time with her husband and cat.

# Lincoln VA Program

## Lincoln Program Director (PGY1)

### **Veronica Kuhlmann, PharmD (Residency Program Director)**

Veronica Kuhlmann graduated from South Dakota State University in 2006 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and went on to complete an ASHP accredited residency in ambulatory care at the Madison, WI VAMC 2006-2007. She has been working at the Lincoln VAMC since 2007. Veronica helped expand pharmacy services into the primary care area and currently works with one of the Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) in primary care.



## Lincoln VA Preceptors

### **Chad Bartholomew, Pharm.D. (Pharmacy Manager)**

Chad graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Pharmacy in 2009 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. He completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at the Grand Island, Nebraska VA in 2009-2010. After completing the residency he began working at the Lincoln, Nebraska VA in July of 2010. He helped expand pharmacy services into primary care at the Lincoln VA and provided Medication Therapy Management services as part of Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) in primary care. Chad became the Lincoln site Pharmacy manager 8/2013.

### **Kathryn Bowers, Pharm.D., BCACP (Ambulatory Care)**

Kathryn Bowers graduated from Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in 2011 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She went on to complete an ASHP accredited PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at the Grand Island, Nebraska VA in 2011-2012. After completing residency, Kathryn began working at Northern Indiana VA as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in ambulatory care and in December of 2013 she became board certified in ambulatory care pharmacy. In August of 2016, Kathryn transferred to the Lincoln, Nebraska VA clinic and is currently working there as part of Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) in primary care.

### **Ly Nguyen, PharmD, BCPS (Medication Patient Safety - NWI)**

Ly Nguyen graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2007 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 Pharmacy Practice residency at the Grand Island VA in 2007-2008. After completing her residency, she worked as an ambulatory care Clinical Pharmacy Specialist (CPS) at the Omaha VA and became a Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist in 2009. In 2011, Ly relocated to Jacksonville, Florida and spent 7 years at the University of Florida Health-Jacksonville as an ambulatory care Clinical Pharmacist specializing in anticoagulation, chronic diseases (diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and nicotine dependence), and pain management. Ly returned to the Omaha VA in 2018 to take the position as a Pain CPS and Academic Detailer. In July of 2020, she transferred to the Lincoln VA to practice as the Medication Safety/Informatics Pharmacist for NWI. Her interests include patient safety, medication safety, pharmacy informatics, diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and nicotine dependence.

### **Adam Placke, Pharm. D. (Outpatient pharmacy)**

Adam graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2009 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. He then worked at and managed two locations for CVS/pharmacy in the greater Kansas City, MO area. In 2011, he moved to Lincoln, NE and

helped open a new store location for CVS, where he managed the pharmacy until March 2020. He joined the Lincoln VA in April 2020 as a member of the Outpatient Pharmacy staff.

**Jim Puhl, Pharm.D., BCPS (Outpatient pharmacy)**

Jim graduated from Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in 2009 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. He went on to complete an ASHP accredited PGY1 pharmacy practice residency at the Nebraska Medical Center in 2009-2010. After completing his residency, he began working as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at the Omaha VA and participating in ambulatory care, anticoagulation services, pain management, and surgical services. During this time, he obtained his Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy. In 2019, he transferred to the Lincoln VA and is now a member of the outpatient pharmacy staff.

**Jeffrey Steffensmeier, Pharm.D.(Ambulatory Care)**

Jeff graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1989 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Prior to working at the VA he worked for 11 years at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital as the Clinical Pharmacy Manager and expanded clinical pharmacy services to all areas of the hospital. While at Madonna he also was an Adjunct Professor in the School of Pharmacy and Allied Health at Creighton University and was preceptor for many students. He has been working at the Lincoln VAMC since 2009. Jeff participated in the expansion of pharmacy services into the primary care area and participated in the establishment of the interdisciplinary pain clinic. Jeff currently works in primary care (PACT) and in pain clinic.

**Patricia Steffensmeier, Pharm.D., BCPS (Outpatient pharmacy)**

Patty graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1992 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Prior to joining the VA in 2008, she was a hospital pharmacist in Fremont, Nebraska, and La Crosse, Wisconsin. In Lincoln, she worked at a local independent pharmacy and as a long term care consultant pharmacist. As a VA Pharmacist, she has worked in the outpatient pharmacy area, works closely with the Oncology and Infusion Clinic, works with Vista Chemotherapy Manager (VCM) individualized standard chemotherapy regimens and assists with 797 Compliance. She also rotates through the primary care (PACT) and anticoagulation clinic. She is Board Certified in Pharmacotherapy.

**Susan Stone, Pharm.D., MPA, BCACP (Anticoagulation)**

Susan graduated from Drake University in 2011 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree and a Masters in Public Administration. She went on to complete an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency focused in ambulatory care at the Grand Island VA in 2011-2012. Following residency, Susan began working at the Marion VA in Indiana as a clinical pharmacist and transferred to Lincoln in 2014. She is also Board Certified in Ambulatory Care. She currently provides medication therapy management for satellite clinics in Holdrege, NE and Shenandoah, IA within the Nebraska-Western Iowa division, as well as anticoagulation services to the Lincoln VA veterans.

**Andrea Walter, MS, Pharm.D, BCPP (Mental Health)**

Andrea graduated from Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions in 2011 with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. She completed an ASHP accredited PGY1 residency at the Lincoln VA in 2012. Following residency, Andrea worked as a clinical pharmacist at the Lincoln VA providing Tele-pharmacy services to community based outpatient clinics within the Nebraska-Western Iowa division. She is now providing medication therapy management services focused on prevention and management of metabolic syndrome for patients utilizing mental health services at the Lincoln VA.